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## **News Release**

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### **Oakdale woman pleads guilty to stealing \$41,445 from school district**

A 35-year-old Oakdale woman pleaded guilty today in federal court to stealing more than \$41,000 from her employer, the North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale Public School District (District 622). Appearing before United States District Court Judge Ann D. Montgomery in Minneapolis, Tina Marie Berlin specifically pled guilty to one count of mail fraud in connection to her crime. She was charged on December 7, 2009.

In her plea agreement, Berlin admitted fraudulently obtaining a total of \$41,445 from the Gladstone Community Center and its clients, including District 622, between February 2000 and November 2006. The school district offers its senior program, early childhood family education program, early childhood special program, and other programs through the Center.

Berlin also admitted obtaining \$68,820 under false pretenses from an individual identified in court documents as "BL." That money was transferred over time from accounts belonging to the Gladstone Community Center and "BL" to accounts under the name and control of Berlin. On July 8, 2004, Berlin received a bank statement highlighting those transfers.

For her crime, Berlin faces a potential maximum penalty of 20 years in prison. Judge Montgomery will determine her sentence at a future date.

This case is the result of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ann M. Anaya.